

P R O C E E D I N G S  
OF THE  
A M E R I C A N P H I L O S O P H I C A L S O C I E T Y .

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VOL. V.                      JANUARY—APRIL, 1848.                      No. 40.

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*Stated Meeting, January 7.*

Present, nineteen members.

Dr. PATTERSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The returns of the election for officers held this day were presented and read, when it appeared that the following gentlemen had been elected:—

*President.*

Nathaniel Chapman, M.D.

*Vice-Presidents.*

Robert M. Patterson, M.D.

Franklin Bache, M.D.

Alexander Dallas Bache, LL.D.

*Secretaries.*

Hon. John K. Kane,

Robley Dunglison, M.D.

John F. Frazer,

Charles B. Trego.

*Members of the Council for Three Years.*

Clement C. Biddle,

William Short,

Joseph Henry,

Benjamin Dorr, D.D.

*Curators.*

Franklin Peale,

John Price Wetherill,

John C. Cresson.

*Treasurer.*

Benjamin W. Richards.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Etudes d'Astronomie Stellaire: Sur la voie lactée, et sur la distance des étoiles fixes. Rapport fait à son Excellence M. le Comte Ouvaroff, Ministre de l'Instruction Publique, et Président de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences. Par F. G. W. Struve, Directeur de l'Observatoire Central de Russie. St. Petersburg, 1847.—*From F. G. W. Struve.*
- Annals and Magazine of Natural History, including Zoology, Botany, and Geology. Vol. XX. No. 134. November, 1847. 8vo.—*From Sir Wm. Jardine, Bart.*
- The Past, the Present, and the Future. By H. C. Carey, Author of "Principles of Political Economy," &c. Philadelphia, 1848. 8vo.—*From H. C. Carey.*
- Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. New Series. Vol. I. Part 1. 4to.—*From the Academy.*
- The African Repository and Colonial Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 12. December, 1847, and Vol. XXIV. No. 1. January, 1848. 8vo. *From the American Colonization Society.*
- Medical News and Library. Vol. VI. No. 61. January, 1848. 8vo.—*From Lea & Blanchard.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania. Vol. XLV. No. 265. Third Series. Vol. XV. No. 1. Jan. 1848. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- Senate Journal: Journal of the Senate of the United States of America; being the Second Session of the Twenty-ninth Congress, begun and held at the City of Washington, December 7, 1846, in the 71st year of the Independence of the United States. Washington, 1846-7. 8vo.
- House Journal: Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States; being the Second Session of the Twenty-ninth Congress, begun and held at the City of Washington, December 7, 1846. Washington, 1846-7. 8vo.
- Public Documents: Printed by order of the Senate of the United States, during the Second Session of the Twenty-ninth Congress. In Three Volumes. 8vo. Washington, 1847.
- Executive Documents: Second Session of Twenty-ninth Congress. In Four Volumes. 8vo. Washington, 1846-7.

Reports of Committees: Second Session of Twenty-ninth Congress.  
Washington, 1846-7. 8vo.

In all Ten Volumes.—*From the Hon. the Secretary of State.*

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.  
Vol. III. No. 11. September and October, 1847.—*From the Academy.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, and Journal  
of Science. Third Series. No. 209. November, 1847. 8vo.

Astronomische Nachrichten. No. 612 to 615. Altona, Sept. 30 to  
Oct. 30, 1847. 4to.

The Committee on the communication of Mr. J. M. Gilliss, U. S. N., dated 22d October, 1847, made a report, recommending the adoption of the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That the proposed method of Dr. Gerling, of Marburg, for determining the solar parallax, by observations of the planet Venus when stationary and at the conjunctions, and the plan of Lieut. Gilliss for its accomplishment, by means of similar observations at the Naval Observatory at Washington, and in South America, would, if successfully carried out under the direction of the Navy Department, furnish valuable astronomical data, and confer honour upon our country.

*Resolved*, therefore, that this Society do hereby commend the proposed plan to the favour and adoption of the present distinguished head of that department, or, if necessary, to the Congress of the United States; and that in testimony of the opinion of this Society upon this subject, an official copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the Secretary of the Navy.

The resolutions were adopted by the Society.

Mr. Frazer, Reporter, presented a letter from Prof. Halde-  
man, dated Columbia, 22d November, 1847, enclosing a list of  
additions and amendments to his paper on the Longicornia,  
which, by the oversight of the Reporter, had not been pre-  
sented at the proper time: whereupon the Society directed it  
to be published in the Proceedings under its appropriate date,  
and with the proper explanations.

Pending nominations, from No. 197 to 202, inclusive, were  
read.

The Chairman of the Publication Committee laid upon the table Vol. X. Part 1, of the Transactions of the Society.

On motion of the Librarian, the Ethnological Society of Paris was put on the list of exchanges of this Society.

*Stated Meeting, January 21.*

Present, twenty-six members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter was received and read:—

From M. U. J. Leverrier, dated Paris, 19th June, 1847, acknowledging the receipt of notice of his election as a member of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

American Journal of Science and Arts. Conducted by Professor B. Silliman and B. Silliman, Jr., and James W. Dana. Second Series. No. 8. March, 1847. No. 13. January, 1848. 8vo.—*From the Editors.*

American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Edited by Isaac Hays, M.D., Surgeon to Wills' Hospital, Physician to the Philadelphia Orphan Asylum, &c. &c. No. XXIX. New Series. January, 1848. 8vo.—*From the Editor.*

Substance of the Argument of John M. Clayton, of Delaware, for the United States, in the matter of the Pea Patch Island, before the Hon. John Sergeant; delivered in the Hall of American Independence, in the City of Philadelphia, on the second and third of December, 1847: containing a Discussion of the Title of the States of Delaware and New Jersey to the River Delaware and its Islands. Philadelphia, 1848. 8vo.—*From the Hon. John M. Clayton.*

Lecture, introductory to a Course on Surgery, in the University of Pennsylvania: containing a Short Account of Eminent British Surgeons, Physicians, Scientific and Literary Men; delivered October 22, 1847. By William Gibson, M.D., Professor of Surgery. Philadelphia, 1847. 8vo.—*From the Author.*